



16 August 2026 - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time - A

Holy Masses



Saturday Vigil

5pm Hanmer Springs
(Every Saturday)

7pm Culverden
(Every Saturdays)

Sunday Mass

8.30am Amberley
(Every Sunday)

11am Cheviot
(1st & 3rd Sundays Only)

10.30am Hawarden
(2nd & 4th Sunday Only)

The Beatitudes, Leithfield
11am - Every Sunday

Weekday Masses

Amberley
Mon - Fri: 8:30am

The Beatitudes, Leithfield
Mon & Thurs: 6pm
Other week-days: 12pm



Adoration & Reconciliation

Amberley

Every Thursday 7pm

1st Friday / month 7:30am

Confession by Appointment
or before Mass



Amberley Church Hall

Rosary

Wednesday 1:30pm

Kalavale

Parish's cup of tea & raffles
1st Sunday of the Month.

St Joseph Men's Group

2nd & 4th Monday 7pm-9pm

**CDOC - Catholic Parish of
Hurunui Trust**

03-1592-0522332-20
(Westpac)

MARY: A SIGN THAT VICTORY IS OURS

Today we celebrate the beautiful Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The readings give us one strong message:

If we stay close to Jesus, we will share in His victory.

In the first reading, we see a great sign in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and a crown of twelve stars. She represents Mary, but she also represents the Church. She is a sign of hope. Even though there is suffering and evil in the world, evil will not have the last word. God wins.

In the second reading, St. Paul tells us that Christ has been raised from the dead. Jesus is the first to rise, and those who belong to Him will also share in His victory.

This is exactly what we celebrate in Mary's Assumption. At the end of her earthly life, Mary was taken body and soul into heaven. Her Assumption reminds us that heaven is our final home.

And in the Gospel, Mary visits Elizabeth. Mary could have stayed at home and enjoyed the blessing she received from God. Instead, she went out to serve. She carried Jesus in her womb, but she also carried love, joy, and hope to Elizabeth.

Mary teaches us something very simple: Stay close to Jesus, serve others, and never lose hope.

Sometimes life is difficult. We have problems with our family, work, money, health, loneliness, or the future. Sometimes we ask, "Where is God?"

Look at Mary.

Mary also experienced difficulties. She did not understand everything. She suffered. She stood beneath the Cross. But she remained faithful. And God gave her the final victory.

The Assumption tells us: our struggles are not the end of our story.

Like Mary, we may have crosses today, but if we remain faithful to Jesus, one day we will share in His glory.

So, brothers and sisters, when life becomes difficult, do not give up. When prayer seems unanswered, do not give up. When you feel tired or alone, do not give up.

Look at Mary. She reminds us that faithfulness to Jesus leads to victory.

Let us ask Mary to help us say every day, like her: "Let it be done to me according to your word."

And let us remember: We may walk through the valley today, but with Jesus, heaven is our destination.

Reflection Question

What is one difficulty in my life where I need to trust God more, like Mary did?

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1,6-7

I will bring foreigners to my holy mountain

Psalm

O God, let all the nations praise you!

SECOND READING: Romans 11:13-15,29-32

With Israel, God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice

Matthew 15:21-28

The Canaanite woman debates with Jesus
and saves her daughter

**HYMNS for SUNDAY
MASSES**

(May vary on the day)

356: Hail Queen of Heaven

340: My Soul Proclaims

607: Let all Mortal flesh

365: Immaculate Mary

From the workshop- words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 21

“St Joseph is the most Marian of all saints. His love for Mary is greater than St Bernard of Clairvaux, St Louis de Montford, St Alphonsus Ligouri, St Maximilian Kolbe, and St John Paul 2 combined. There has never been a greater Marian saint than St Joseph, and there never will be.”

ONE MINUTE CATECHESIS - THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY: OUR HOPE FOR HEAVEN

1. What is the Assumption of Mary?

The Assumption is the Catholic teaching that, **at the end of her earthly life, the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken body and soul into the glory of heaven.** This means that Mary is already sharing in the glory of her Son, Jesus Christ. The Catechism teaches this in CCC 966.

The Assumption is not the same as the Ascension of Jesus. **Jesus ascended into heaven by His own divine power; Mary was taken up by God's power.**

2. Why does the Church believe in the Assumption?

The Assumption is part of the Church's faith and Sacred Tradition. It shows the special relationship between Mary and Jesus. Mary was completely united with her Son throughout her life. Therefore, her Assumption is a **special participation in Christ's Resurrection** and an anticipation of the resurrection promised to Christians (CCC 966, 974). ([Vatican](#))

3. What does Mary's Assumption teach us about our future?

It gives us **hope**. Mary shows us what God wants to give to His faithful children. The Catechism calls her an **“image and beginning of the Church”** as it will be perfected in heaven (CCC 972). Her glorification reminds us that our final destination is not this world but **eternal life with God.** ([Vatican](#))

4. Does the Assumption mean Mary is more important than Jesus?

No. Everything Mary received came from **Jesus and God's grace.** Mary always points us toward her Son. Her glory comes from her close union with Christ. We honour Mary, but we worship God alone.

5. What can we learn from Mary in daily life?

Mary teaches us to **trust God, obey His will, remain faithful during suffering, and serve others.** She did not have an easy life, but she remained faithful to God.

When we experience problems in our family, work, finances, loneliness, or other struggles, Mary reminds us: **Do not give up. God has a plan beyond our present difficulties.**

6. What is the practical challenge for us?

Live each day with **heaven as your goal.** Pray regularly, attend Mass, receive the Sacraments worthily, forgive others, help those in need, and remain faithful to Jesus.

Reflection Question:

If heaven is my final destination, what must I change in my life today to become closer to God?

Notices

ST JOHN PAUL II CENTRE RACE NIGHT 2026 - Friday 28th August - Addington Raceway.

Join 200+ people from across the Diocese for a lively night at the trots — harness racing, a 2-course dinner, and our famous Priest Punter of the Year competition. Every ticket goes toward our work of helping marriages and families to flourish across the Christchurch Diocese. Book at jp2.org.nz/racenight

Footsteps of Pompallier Pilgrimage: 24-27 October 2026.

Pilgrims will walk 100km over four days in Hokianga, following in the footsteps of Bishop Pompallier.

Spaces are very limited, 60 pilgrims, so don't miss out on this special opportunity!

Register at <https://fopp.nz/media/>

This pilgrimage is run by the Auckland Latin Mass Chaplaincy under the supervision of Rev. Fr Anton Sumich FSSP. The Chaplaincy is in full communion with the Catholic Church and subordinate to the Bishop of Auckland Diocese Stephen Lowe. (more information about the Chaplaincy here : <https://www.fssp.nz/>).



Footsteps of Pompallier Pilgrimage
100km over 4 days
24th - 27th October 2026

From Waitangi to Motuti, through forest, farmland and alongside the Hokianga Harbour in the footsteps of the first Catholic missionaries to NZ
Places limited to 60 pilgrims.

Register now at fopp.nz

- To walk
- As a volunteer
- To donate
- To sponsor a pilgrim

